THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Being vital defence production units, security in Ordnance Factories is even in normal circumstances tight. The degree of alertness does vary depending upon assessments of the prevailing situation and has been heightened because of the present situation.

Procurement of Helicopter rings during 1992-96

2467. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had procured 820 helicopter rings during 1992-96;

(b) if so, the total value thereof;

(c) whether these rings are still lying unused; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against those responsible for such an avoidable procurement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total value of the rings procured was Rs. 1.70 crores.

(c) and (d) Presently, some of the rings are held in stock, which will be consumed during the course of normal overhaul, These rings are required for use on MI-8/MI-17 helicopters and they will be consumed over the next few years.

Resettlement of widows of Kargil Martyrs

†2468. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the work pertaining to resettlement of Kargil martyrs' widows;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.